

From: Tim Mansour
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 4:00am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To the Dept of Justice:

I'm appalled at Microsoft's recent attempts to settle this antitrust case by giving away software and hardware. What an absurd and transparent attempt to *increase* their stranglehold on the market, and thank God the judge involved didn't accept their offer.

Microsoft is absolutely a monopoly: I feel this every day as an Apple Mac user. I want -- and should have -- the freedom to choose what tools I use for my work, and what appliances I buy for my lifestyle. The more Microsoft is allowed to invade every area of my life, the more I'm worried about even having any choice.

Microsoft should pay a *substantial* amount of money into a fund which can be administered by a *representative* group of computer executives: including those with interests in Linux, Unix, Java and Mac OS. But, this fund should be ongoing for some time: some money which finds itself in Microsoft's pockets because users have no choice should go into helping competitors until those competitors are actually helped by it-- in other words, until Microsoft's market share drops. Until then, what's the point in offering token gestures? If the free market economy is to survive on competition, then let the competition begin! I'd suggest that a certain sum (or certain % of gross profits) from Microsoft should go into the fund for the next five years.

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